

IDEAS TO GET THOSE NOSES TO THE FLOOR!



"IF YOUR DOG IS UNSURE, THEN GET THEIR NOSE TO THE FLOOR!"

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Use items you already have around your home & garden to build foraging areas & toys. Scatter part of their daily food ration around & inside; plant pots, boxes, trees, bushes, pillow cases, egg cartons, bottles, toilet roll tubes, rolled up towels or screwed up newspaper/ scrap paper etc & then let your dog sniff away. Get creative with what you have already around the house!



Play 'find it' games with your dog & combine some training exercises to it. Use their daily food ration, wait for eye contact from your dog and when they look at you throw some of the food just a little away from you and ask them to 'Find'. They have to go get it & come back & offer eye contact again to keep the game going. As they get better you can throw the food further away from you each time. This can also help for their recall foundations as they have to come back in front of you to keep the game going.



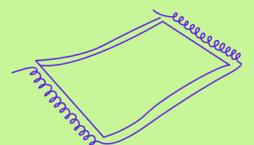
Simply scatter some of their daily food ration or high value food onto the floor on walks and let them forage it out. You can get more creative and instead of using the ball in a ball thrower, put the food in the ball thrower and launch it for more advanced sniffing fun. You can try it around trees, long grass and short grass for a variety. Scattering is great if your dog is nervous or reactive of a trigger, being at a comfortable distance from a trigger and scatter feeding them with them just looking at it, can really help them stay calmer.



Let them go sniff hunting or go on a sniffari. Go to interesting areas on walks like woodland and hedgerows, put your dog on a harness and long line (not retractable) and allow them to sniff every centimetre of scent trails and just follow them. You can also set up hunting for toys or food. Hide toys and let them sniff them out and find them, you can even bury them in sand pits or put them in paddling pools. Throw toys on walks and let them fully land before sending the dog to go retrieve them so they can sniff them out. You can even stick cheese to trees and walls on walks and get them to hunt it out by sniffing and climbing!



Invest in a variety of foraging activity toys or learn to make them; such as snuffle mats, feeding mats, snuffle balls, snuffle cubes, snuffle baskets, Kong Ballistic (lotus balls), puzzle toys, slow feeders and lickimats to name a few. These all encourage sniffing and seeking which can calm and slow a dog down, not to mention prevent & reduce unwanted annoyance behaviours!



These are just a few ideas. The ideas are unlimited go get creative & find your dogs favourite way to use their nose!